

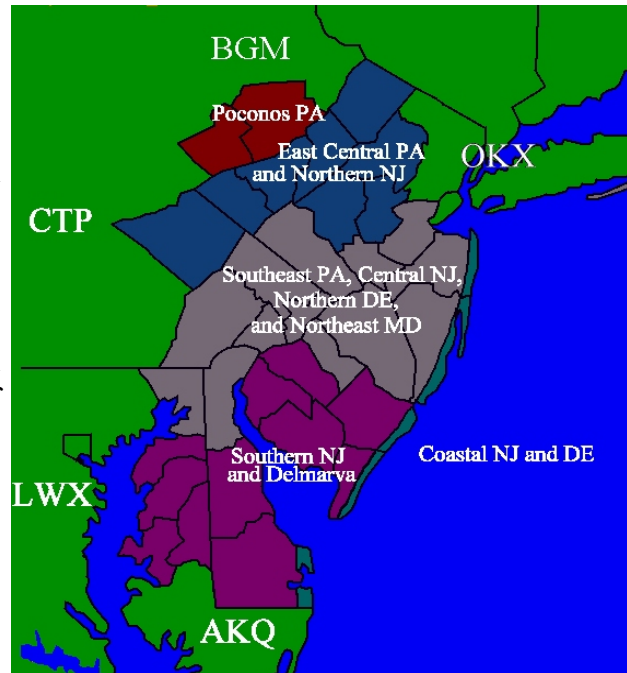
## **Mt. Holly Fire Weather Operating Plan**

### **Serving Delaware, New Jersey, Northeast Maryland, and Southeast Pennsylvania**

#### **THE “GFE-BASED” MORNING FIRE WEATHER FORECAST**

The forecast is made up of fire weather zones climatologically grouped by counties throughout the forecast office area of responsibility. The New Jersey counties of Sussex, Warren, Morris, Hunterdon and Somerset counties are grouped together as “Northern New Jersey”. Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Camden, Burlington, and Ocean counties are grouped together as “Central New Jersey”. Salem, Gloucester, Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May are grouped as “Southern New Jersey”. In Addition, the coastal zones of Eastern Monmouth, Coastal Ocean, Coastal Atlantic and Atlantic Coastal Cape May are grouped together as “Coastal New Jersey”.

The product deadline is 700 am local time. Forecasts are issued 365 days a year. The forecast consists of three 12 hour periods (today, tonight and tomorrow) beginning at 500 am local time on the day of forecast preparation. An extended 3 to 7 day forecast as well as an 8 to 14 day Outlook are also included.



The forecast includes Cloud Amount as a descriptive term, Chance of Precipitation in Percent, Precipitation Type, Max/Min Temperatures, Max/Min Relative Humidities , Wind Direction to 8 points of the compass and Speed in mph(am and pm), Precipitation Amount and Duration (if precipitation were to occur), Low Level Haines Index, Estimated Lightning Frequency using LAL, Mixing Height, Transport Direction and Speed, A Dispersion Descriptor which is a worded category identical a Dispersion Index, and Ventilation which is the product of the transport wind and mixing height.

#### **HEADLINE... REQUIRED FOR FIRE WEATHER WATCH OR RED FLAG WARNING**

#### **THE DISCUSSION**

The discussion is a brief plain language summary of the weather pattern as it pertains to our County Warning Area...focusing on the today and tonight periods.

## **GENERAL FORECAST**

### Parameter definitions:

Cloud Cover	(Cloudy, Mostly Cloudy, Partly Cloudy, Clear)
Chance Precip	(Percent chance of Precip, 0-100)
Precip Type	(Tstm, rain, frz rain, snow/rain, drizzle, none)
Temperature	(Max/Min temps as zone avg)
Relative Humidity	(Max/Min Relative Humidity in percent)
Wind Direction	(Wind Direction to 8 points of the compass)
and Speed(am/pm)	(Wind Speed to the nearest mph)
Precip Amount	(A precipitation range similar to RDF/AFM ranges)
Precip Duration	(How long precip will accumulate (in hours)
Haines Index	(Low Level Haines Index)
Lightning Freq	(Lightning Frequency if Lightning were to occur)
Mixing Height	(Mixing height at time of max/min temp)
Transport Wind	(Transport wind direction and speed through the Mixed Layer)
Dispersion Descriptor	(Categories based on the Dispersion Index)
Ventilation	(Actual value of the product of the mixing height and transport wind)
Remarks:	(Any item which you deem necessary to enhance usage of the forecast, such as additional information on strength and areal extent of thunderstorms, lightning activity, frontal timing, sudden wind shifts, or any other unusual weather activity which may not be evident from the general forecast.)

### THE EXTENDED FORECAST INCLUDING WINDS (3 to 7 days)

The extended forecast is a basic narrative forecast of expected weather over the 3 to 7 day extended period.

### THE 8 TO 14 DAY OUTLOOK

The Outlook is a general descriptions of Temperatures and Precipitation vs Normal.

FNUS51 KPHI 191035  
FWFPHL

FIRE WEATHER FORECAST...**EXAMPLE**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MOUNT HOLLY NJ  
530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

.DISCUSSION...

A cold front over the great lakes region will drop southeast crossing the forecast area Wednesday evening. The front should stall across the Mid Atlantic region Thursday and Friday. Another cold front from the West is expected to arrive Friday night.

PAZ054-055-091200-  
POCONOS PENNSYLVANIA-  
CARBON PA-MONROE PA-  
530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

PARAMETER...	TODAY	TONIGHT	WED
CLOUD AMOUNT.....	PTCLDY	MCLDY	PTCLDY
PRECIP CHC (%).....	30	40	60
PRECIP TYPE.....	TSTMS	TSTMS	TSTMS
MAX/MIN TEMP.....	86	68	81
MAX/MIN RH ( %).....	53	96	54
AM WIND (MPH).....	W 7		W5
PM WIND (MPH).....	W 9	W 7	SW11
PRECIP AMOUNT.....	(.10-.24)	.10 to 0.24	.10 to 0.24
PRECIP DURATION.....	2	3	4
HAINES INDEX.....	3	4	3
LAL (MAXIMUM).....	3	3	4
MIXING HGT.....	4900	0	4200
TRANSPORT WIND .....	W 17	CALM	SW 13
TRANSPORT SPEED.....	13	16	21
DISPERSION .....	GOOD	VERY POOR	FAIR
VENTILATION.....	83300	0	33600
.REMARKS...NONE			

.EXTENDED FORECAST...

.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...

.THURSDAY...

.FRIDAY... (All periods include sky cover, precipitation type, temp, wind)

.FRIDAY NIGHT

.SATURDAY...

.SUNDAY...

.MONDAY...

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PAZ060>062-NJZ001-007>010-091200-  
EAST CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND NORTHERN NEW JERSEY-  
BERKS PA-LEHIGH PA-NORTHAMPTON PA-  
SUSSEX NJ-WARREN NJ-MORRIS NJ-HUNTERDON NJ-SOMERSET NJ-  
530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

PARAMETER...	TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY
CLOUD AMOUNT.....	PTCLDY	MCLDY	PTCLDY
PRECIP CHC (%).....	30	40	60
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.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...

.THURSDAY...

.FRIDAY... (All periods include sky cover, precipitation type, temp, wind)

.FRIDAY NIGHT

.SATURDAY...

.SUNDAY...

.MONDAY...

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PAZ067>071-NJZ012-013-015-018>020-DEZ001-MDZ008-091200-  
SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA...CENTRAL NEW JERSEY-  
NORTHERN DELAWARE AND NORTHEAST MARYLAND-  
CHESTER PA-MONTGOMERY PA-BUCKS PA-DELAWARE PA-PHILADELPHIA PA-  
MIDDLESEX NJ-MONMOUTH NJ-MERCER NJ-CAMDEN NJ-NORTHWESTERN  
BURLINGTON NJ-

OCEAN NJ-NEW CASTLE DE-CECIL MD-  
530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

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.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...

.THURSDAY...

.FRIDAY... (All periods include sky cover, precipitation type, temp, wind)

.FRIDAY NIGHT

.SATURDAY...

.SUNDAY...

.MONDAY...

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NJZ016-017-021>023-027-DEZ002-003-MDZ012-015-019-020-091200-

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY AND DELMARVA-

SALEM NJ-GLOUCESTER NJ-ATLANTIC NJ-CUMBERLAND NJ-INLAND CAPE MAY

NJ-SOUTHEASTERN BURLINGTON-KENT DE-SUSSEX DE-KENT MD-

QUEEN ANNE/S MD-TALBOT MD-CAROLINE MD-

530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

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.EXTENDED FORECAST...

.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...

.THURSDAY...

.FRIDAY... (All periods include sky cover, precipitation type, temp, wind)

.FRIDAY NIGHT

.SATURDAY...

.SUNDAY...

.MONDAY...

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NJZ014-024>026-DEZ004-091200-

COASTAL NEW JERSEY AND DELAWARE-

EASTERN MONMOUTH NJ-COASTAL OCEAN NJ-COASTAL ATLANTIC NJ-

COASTAL CAPE MAY NJ-DELAWARE BEACHES DE-

530 AM EDT TUE JUL 8 2003

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.SATURDAY...

.SUNDAY...

.MONDAY...

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.8 TO 14 DAY OUTLOOK...Temperatures below normal. Below median precipitation.

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(NAME)

## DISSEMINATION

Products are disseminated via the National Weather Service AWIPS Network and are transmitted on the NOAA Weather Wire Service. Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, and special requests from state or federal agencies are disseminated over the NOAA Weather Radio.



## **FIRE WEATHER WATCHES AND RED FLAG WARNINGS**

### **I. ISSUANCE TIMES AND PRODUCTS**

Fire Weather Watches (PHLRFWPHL) are issued for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 12 hour period of a forecast. A Red Flag warning (also PHLRFWPHL) is issued for the 1<sup>st</sup> period of a forecast.

*FIRE WEATHER WATCHES AND RED FLAG WARNINGS WILL BE HEADLINED IN THE FIRE WEATHER FORECAST (PHLFWFPHL) AND INCLUDED IN THE AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION (PHLAFDPhi) WARNING SECTION AS WELL AS THE HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK (PHLHWOPHI).*

### **II. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The Watches and Warnings indicate the potential for spread of any fires that may develop. They are NOT an indication or forecast of whether fires will develop.

### **III. INDIVIDUAL STATE INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **For Pennsylvania**

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Mount Holly will issue a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, if the expected minimum relative humidity will be at or below 25 percent, sustained winds will be at or above 25 mph for over 2 consecutive hours, and when the 10 hour time lag fuels are less than 10 percent.

#### **For New Jersey Delaware and Maryland**

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Mount Holly will issue a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, if the expected minimum relative humidity will be at or below 30 percent, sustained winds will be at or above 25 mph for over 2 consecutive hours, and when the 10 hour time lag fuels are less than 10 percent.

#### **Summary Criteria by State**

<u>State</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Humidity</u>
Pennsylvania	>=25 mph	<=25 percent
New Jersey	>=25 mph	<=30 percent
Delaware	>=25 mph	<=30 percent
Maryland	>=25 mph	<=30 percent

The expectation of precipitation, in addition to the above criteria, will not diminish the need for a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, unless the precipitation is widespread and concurrent with the initiation of winds described above.